

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A separable ~~package~~ pouch for containing food ~~related~~ items therein, comprising:

a pouch having opposed ends and first and second ~~sheet-like barrier~~ sheet members positioned one on top of another for forming said pouch therebetween,

a portion of said first and second ~~sheet-like barrier~~ sheet members positioned between said opposed ends of the pouch including a separation structure, said separation structure functioning to allow said pouch to separate into at least two pieces, each piece including one of said first and second opposed ends of the pouch when said separation structure is activated, and further including

additional barrier sheet members positioned inside the pouch for keeping food items stored between the additional sheet members from coming in contact with each other while inside the pouch, thereby creating separation zones inside the pouch for holding food items, and wherein,

said additional barrier sheet members are connected to at least one of said opposed ends of the pouch, so that when the ends of said pouch are separated, said additional barrier sheet members remain connected to said at least one end of the pouch, thereby removing the separate zones between the food items inside the pouch.

2. (cancelled) The separable package of claim 1, further including additional sheet-like barrier members positioned therein for creating separation zones inside the pouch for holding food related items..

3. (cancelled) The separable package of claim 2, wherein said additional sheet-like barrier members are connected to at least one of said ends of the pouch, so that when the ends of said pouch are separated, said additional sheet-like barrier members stay with one of the pouch ends, thereby removing the separate zones for the food related items inside the pouch.

4. (currently amended) The separable packagepouch of claim 31, wherein at least one of said additional ~~sheet-like-barrier~~ sheet members comprises at least two further ~~sheet-like~~sheet barrier members, each of the further ~~sheet-like~~ barrier sheet members extend inside the pouch from one opposed end toward the other opposed end.
5. (currently amended) The separable packagepouch of claim 31, wherein at least one of said additional ~~sheet-like-barrier~~ sheet members comprises a further ~~sheet-like-barrier~~ sheet member that starts at a point connected to one end of the pouch and extends inside the pouch toward the other end of the pouch to a point that establishes a distal end for a separation zone created thereby, said further ~~sheet-like-barrier~~ sheet member then folds back on itself and ends near the one end of the pouch
6. (currently amended) The separable packagepouch of claim 5, wherein two further ~~sheet-like~~ barrier sheet members, each folded back on itself, are positioned one on top of another, for defining one side of a separation zone inside said pouch, said folded back on each other two further ~~sheet-like-barrier~~ sheet members forming four ~~sheet-like-barrier~~ sheet members, where the two inside barrier members are connected to the one end of the pouch.
7. (currently amended) The separable packagepouch of claim 6, wherein the further ~~sheet-like-barrier~~ sheet member which forms a bottom of one separation zone extends inside the pouch so as to form a top ~~sheet-like-barrier~~ sheet member for a separation zone that is positioned thereunder.
8. (currently amended) The separable packagepouch of claim 1, wherein said separation structure is connected to a portion of said first and second ~~sheet-like-barrier~~ sheet members which form said pouch, between said opposed ends of the pouch,
9. (currently amended) The separable packagepouch of claim 8, wherein said separation structure comprises a weakness built into the first and second ~~sheet-like-barrier~~ sheet members, so that when the opposed ends are pulled in opposite directions, said pouch separates into at least two portions.

10. (currently amended) The separable ~~package~~pouch of claim 9, wherein said weakness is formed by perforations in said first and second ~~sheet-like barrier~~ sheet members.
11. (currently amended) The separable ~~package~~pouch of claim 1, further including:

a machine for automatically opening a plurality of the separable ~~packages~~pouches for forming a layered product of food elements as each of said pouches is separated, ~~said machine comprising an arrangement of opposed rollers, said rollers functioning to open said separable packages by rotating in opposed directions so as to wind a respective one of said first and second sheet-like barrier members about a respective one of said rollers, and thereby dispense said food elements.~~
12. (cancelled) The separable package of claim 11, wherein said separation structure comprises a portion of said pouch that is used to join said first and second sheet-like barrier members together.
13. (cancelled) A machine for automatically opening a plurality of separable packages for forming a layered product, said separable package comprising a pouch formed from opposed first and second sheet-like barrier members and having a food element contained therein, said machine comprising:

an arrangement of opposed rollers, said rollers functioning to open said separable package by rotating in opposed directions so as to wind a respective one of said first and second sheet-like barrier members about a respective one of said rollers, and thereby dispense said food element.
14. (cancelled) The machine of claim 13, further including an auxiliary device for presenting said separable packages to the machine individually.
15. (cancelled) The machine of claim 13, further including an auxiliary device for presenting said separable packages to the machine in a continuous manner.